

Hotch-potch finish

Hendon 1, Wycombe W. 2

WYCOMBE Wanderers closed their Isthmian League season by completing the second half of a 'double' over Hendon on Monday night, just 48 hours after the crack Middlesex outfit had edged Dagenham out to carry off the London Senior Cup.

For the record, it was Wycombe's 23rd win in a 38-match programme: Goals from Tony Horseman, and the winner five minutes from time, from late inclusion Viv Busby, took their goals tally to 70, as against a creditable figure of 37 — less than one per 90 minutes. It also secured Wanderers' place in the top five.

But the hotch-potch of good, bad and blatantly indifferent football dished up by both sides, couldn't have better underlined the reason why neither had been able to press home their challenge for Enfield's title.

On the mud flats of Claremont Road, tackling was often a tricky proposition, and after 17 minutes, Hendon's Dave Hogwood became the first victim in a collision with Wycombe's free-moving Julian Lailey.

Hogwood injured

Helped off for treatment, Hogwood finally returned with a bandaged right knee four minutes later.

By half way through the period, play had sunk into a deep enough rut for the Hendon manager, Ron Patterson, to scream out for more life from his front men.

But it was Wycombe's attack that first jumped the groove when, on 28 minutes, the lively Barry Baker slipped a through ball for Horseman to push home.

Three minutes later, Len Worley, only occasionally managing a useful contribution to proceedings, literally ran through his defensive covering for a "goal" that was inevitably disallowed.

Wycombe twice more went close, through a Stevenson header tipped inches over the bar by 'keeper Flack, and Faulkner, who for the most part was kept fully checked by centre-half Mick Cannon.

Hendon hit

Hendon hit back

Hendon obviously meant business from the outset of part two, and after Lou Temel had headed back onto his own post with Maskell thankfully on hand to collect the rebound, they equalised.

The goal originated when Temel gave away a free kick in the 65th minute. Poole drove the ball deep into the packed goalmouth and Cannon — one several dashing in for a killing — connected to make it 1-1.

Hendon brought substitute Rockney on for Shacklock, but Wanderers restored their lead five minutes from full-time, as a Lailey free kick found Horseman ready to push on to Busby for the finishing touch.

Wycombe's win was not without cost however. The promising Keith Stevenson, hobbled off and Keith Samuels replaced him for a prolonged injury time.

Nor was it without frustration — when still on level terms, Faulkner was also disallowed a score for an infringement on Flack as they went up for a Worley corner.

Wycombe: J. Pratt; K. Stevenson (sub.: K. Samuels), L. Temel; J. Lailey, I. Rundle, D. Thomas; L. Worley, B. Baker, V. Faulkner, A. Horseman, V. Busby.